

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 7, as follows:

Next, in step S202, the master unit 54 transmits a request for format information (a format information request) to a slave unit ~~55₁~~^{55a}. In step S203, the slave unit 55₁ supplies the format information generated at the time of its activation to the master unit 54. Likewise, in step S204, the master unit 54 transmits a format information request to a slave unit 55_n. In step S205, the slave unit 55_n supplies the format information generated at the time of its activation to the master unit 54. Thus, the master unit 54 acquires the format information, which is transmitted from the slave units 55₁ and 55_n to the master unit 54 using a predetermined protocol.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 52, line 9, as follows:

Referring to FIG. 34, in step S901, the SCS 20 determines whether an MLB is included in the multi-function apparatus 1. If no MLB is included (that is, “NO” in step S901), the operation proceeds to step S903. If an MLB (the MLB 45) is included (that is, “YES” in step ~~S901~~^{S901a}), in step S902, the SCS 20 generates the MLB image format table of FIG. 14.